REASONS Humbly Offered to the *PARLIAMENT*

FOR THE

Taking away the Office *and* Seal *of the* Aulnagers *and Collecting the Duty of* Aulnage *(or a Duty in Lieu thereof) at the* Custom-House.

THE *Office* and *Seal* of the *Aulnagers* being no ways serviceable to the Woollen Manufactures, nor answering the End of their Constitution: And whereas the manner of Collecting the *Subsidy* of *Aulnage* is not onely very *Chargeable* to the Crown, but *extreamly Grievous* to the Subject:

It is therefore Humbly Proposed,

That this *Office* and *Seal* should be wholly taken away, and that the *Subsidy* of *Aulnage* (or a Duty not exceeding it) should be Collected at the *Custom-House* with the Rest of the Kings Customs payable there.

And if the Duty hereafter mentioned be added to and Collected at the *Custom-House*, it will bring in more Money to answer the Interest of the Crown and Dutchess of *Richmond* who has a Grant from the Crown than is now paid by the *Farmers*, as is thus Demonstrated.

	l.
By Accounts taken out of the *Custom-House* Books, it doth appear that the *Subsidy* of *Poundage* paid there for the Woollen Manufactures Exported, comes to one Year with another (for 18 Years last past) above *per Annum*	33000
By comparing the *Aulnage* Duty (as proposed) with the *Custom-House* Duty it doth appear that the Duty of *Aulnage* amounts to about a six part of the *Custom-House* Duty: So that if it had been Collected with the Customs it would have amounted *per Annum*	5500
There is now paid to the Dutchess of *Richmond* and others who have an Interest in the Duty *per Annum*	3138
There was paid by the present *Farmers* a Fine of 9000 *l.* as they set forth for a Lease of 21 Years, (made in 81.) which may be valued at if reduced to a yearly Rent *per Annum*	900
Total	4038
So that in case the Duty of *Aulnage* had been Collected at the *Custom-House*, it would have brought in sufficient to answer the Interest of the *Crown* and Dutchess, and a considerable overplus of *per Annum*	1462

If the *Subsidy* of *Aulnage* would have amounted to 5500 *l. per Annum*, if it had been Received at the *Custom-House* as is demonstrated, then it may Rationally be concluded it may come to as much for the future if it be Collected there. The Advantages by this Change are very Obvious.

A particular of the Rates that are Proposed to be added to the Custom-House *Duty in lieu of the* Aulnage.

For every Long-Cloth	6 *d.*	For every doz. Mens Stockings half a peny.	
* For every short Cloth according to the Book of Rates	6	For every doz. child. ditto and Ends of ditto,	1 *farthing.*
For every Minikin Bay	6	For every 100 Goads of Cotton	6 *d.*
For every Double Bay	3	For every 100 yds of Flannels	4
For every single Bay	2	For every 100 yds of Freeze	8
For every pound weight of old and new Drapery that is Entred and pays by weight,	half a farthing	For every pair of Blankets half a peny.	
		For every Rugg, half a peny.	

* *Note*, That 3 *Spanish* Cloths makes 2 Short Cloths, and 3 Kerseys one short Cloth, according to the Book of Rates.

And for all sorts of Woollen or part Woollen Manufactures that are Chargeable by the *Statutes* or Book of Rates which are not here before-mentioned or included, do pay a six part more than they are Chargeable by the said *Statutes* or Book of Rates as aforesaid.

And if these Rates as above be Added to and Collected with the present Customs, it will not be a greater Duty upon the Woollen Manufactures Exported than is now paid (taking one sort of *Woollen Manufacture* with the other) The difference will onely be, the Duty is now paid in two several Places, and then it will be paid at one, which will be both for the *Country's Ease* and the *Crown's Advantage*.

Great Endeavours have been used, and Applications made by the present *Farmers* and their *Agents* to hinder if possible the Effecting of what is here proposed, and do by all ways and means industriously Misrepresent the design thereof, and Object.

Objection. That what is proposed will not be sufficient to answer the Interest of the Crown, and of all other Persons that have a Legal Right and Title to the Profits arising by vertue thereof. For,

First, *That in a time of War the Duty if Collected at the* Custom-House, *will come to little.*

Secondly, *That in a time of Peace it will not be sufficient to answer the* Farmers *for their Interest, they making above* 3000 l. per Annum *clear of all Rent and Charges.*

Answer. As to the first Objection its answered, That by Accounts taken out of the *Custom-House* Books it doth appear that if the Duty proposed had been Collected with the Rest of the Kings Customs from *Dec.* 25. 88. to *Dec.* 25. 89. it would have amounted to above 5000 *l.* And by Accounts likewise taken from *Dec.* 25. 89. to *Nov.* 1. 90. it doth appear that the Customs for the Port of *London* are higher than they were for the same space of time in the preceding Year.

As to the second Objection it is answered, That the Methods which the *Farmers* have taken to raise their Profits to this height, are so well known to all Persons Conversant with the Dealers in the Woollen Manufacture that 'tis feared it would be as tedious as unnecessary to enter into a particular demonstration, But shall onely observe, That if they have made above 3000 *l. per Annum*, they have already got well by the Bargain; So that in case no further allowance be made they will be no loosers with reference to the Fine by them paid.

It must be confessed that what is proposed will not be sufficient to answer the *Farmers* demands, But whether for the sake of these *Farmers* (Pretended or Real Profits) the *Subjects* shall be still continued under the Oppression, and Burden, they have so long, and so justly complained of, is with submission left to the Wisdom of the Parliament.

[169-?]